

Retiree Activities Office

2400 Wright Street,
Room 160,
Madison, WI 53704



RAO Newsletter # 113 - November 30, 2011 - Military Retirees Volunteers Needed

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR - Wisconsin)

The Wisconsin ESGR Committee is looking for retirees, from all branches of service, to become volunteers for the ESGR program. We would like to share a few things with you about the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Committee (ESGR). ESGR is a Department of Defense Agency that covers the entire United States plus a committee in Europe. The Wisconsin ESGR committee is comprised of approximately 140 volunteers that donate on average 1-4 hours per month to ESGR activities. Most volunteer time takes place close to our members' communities. Some activities include meeting with unit Commanders and/or First Sergeants and service members of the ARNG, ANG, USAFR, USNR USAR, USMCR, USCGR Units within the State, a few times each year to explain the basics of ESGR, to support unit events, and provide briefings if needed.

We have a number of different activities our volunteers can support. If you are interested you could select one or more of the following:

Employer Outreach: (work with local employers and educate them about ESGR) - Present Patriot Awards and acquire Statements of Support (SOS) signing.

Military Outreach: (work with local military units and educate service members about ESGR)

Ombudsman: (receive formal training and resolve employer conflicts through informal mediation)

Awards Committee: (support in selecting employers to receive ESGR and DOD awards)

Public Affairs: (work with local media regarding ESGR events and news releases)

A bit of history regarding ESGR. This DoD agency was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between reserve component members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment.

Wisconsin is divided into 9 ESGR areas. Areas 1 thru 4 are in the southern and eastern part of Wisconsin and areas 5 thru 9 are in the northern and western part of the state. We have an ESGR volunteer assigned to every National Guard and Reserve unit across our great state.

Our state committee members get together at least twice each year. We have our training weekend in the fall and our awards banquet in the spring each year. Our members are placed on invitational travel orders and receive per-diem for food, lodging and mileage to and from these ESGR events. While at these events, you would receive basic ESGR training, updates, and meet our other ESGR members. You will receive basic ESGR training upon your assignment and attend quarterly meetings with your area Chair. As a volunteer member we fully understand that you may not be able to attend every meeting or both training weekends.

Please consider becoming an ESGR volunteer member. Many find this is a way to give back to their nearby military unit and be in-touch with what's going on in their world. It can also be very rewarding when you help a service member retain or gain employment.

Please let our Madison or Eau Claire ESGR office know if you are interested:
Madison number in Madison is (608) 242-3169 or (608) 242-3729 or 800-335-5147 ext 3169 or ext 3729 or Eau Claire (715) 858-9676. We hope to hear from you in the near future.

Thank you for your time and, as mentioned above, we hope you're enjoying your retirement!

Please contact any of the individuals listed below and they will provide further information.

Mike Halquist
Eau Claire, WI
Full-time
715-856-9676

Tim Flatley
Madison, WI
Full-time
608-242-3169

OR

Doris Schmitt
Full-time
Office 242-3729

Kerry Denson
Lake Mills, WI
Boss Lift Coordinator
Volunteer
Home-920-648-6763
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